



Rockville Reports

APRIL 2021 • VOL. 67 #4



• FIND MORE CITY NEWS AT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV •

Take the Survey and Help Plan the Future of RedGate Park

What should RedGate Park look like in 10 years? Twenty years?

The city has launched a new website — and a survey — at engagerockville.com/redgate-park to gather thoughts and ideas about RedGate Park's future. The survey, which is translated into Spanish and Simplified Chinese, will be open until Friday, April 16.

请协助我们策划 RedGate Park 的未来。请访问 engagerockville.com/redgate-park 以了解有关策划过程的更新内容。

Ayude a planear el futuro del Parque RedGate. Por favor revise engagerockville.com/redgate-park para las actualizaciones en el proceso de planeación.

Once registered, users can sign up to receive updates and share ideas, as well as find a central hub for information about RedGate Park and the planning process.

When the 131-acre RedGate Golf Course closed, Rockville's Mayor and Council voted unanimously to keep the land — one of

TALK TO US
Visit: EngageRockville.com

OFFLINE?
Call: Larissa Klevan, 240-314-8214
Write to: Larissa Klevan, c/o Dept. of Planning and Development Services, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850

the city's largest remaining areas of open space — as a park.

Over the next year, the community is invited to join the city to envision — and design — the details. Will there be trails for walking, biking and hiking? Playgrounds? A dog park? Picnic areas? Natural areas for bird-watching and habitat preservation? Or would you like to see lighted sports fields or an event amphitheater? Give us your thoughts.

Visit engagerockville.com/redgate-park and join the conversation. 🌸

Citywide Survey to Investigate Scope of Social Justice, Racism and Bias

The Human Rights and Human Services Advisory commissions of the City of Rockville will launch a communitywide survey this spring, at the direction of the Mayor and Council.

The survey will assess the state of social justice, racism and bias in the city, as well as the availability and appropriateness of city services during the pandemic.

The survey will be available at www.rockvillemd.gov/

humanrights, can be taken anonymously and will remain open for at least 60 days. Paper surveys will be available on request by calling the Department of Housing and Community Development at 240-314-8300.

The scope and impact of social justice, racism and bias on city residents, and in the community, has become a leading priority for the Mayor and Council following last year's nationwide protests of

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Mayor and Council Seek Public Comments on Planning Commission Recommended Comprehensive Plan Draft

The Mayor and Council will hold a virtual public hearing at their meeting on Monday, April 12, to receive comments on the City of Rockville's proposed comprehensive plan update.

After an extensive public input process and preparation of the

draft plan, the Rockville Planning Commission presented its recommended comprehensive plan update to the Mayor and Council at their March 15 meeting.

The Mayor and Council are now accepting additional comments. *continued on pg. 3...*

COVID-19: Vaccination Eligibility Increasing Along with Help for Seniors

Gov. Larry Hogan announced in March that all Marylanders age 16 and older will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by Tuesday, April 27.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is preregistering people based on their priority group status, as set by the state of Maryland.

To preregister, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine or call 240-777-2982. Demand is high and supplies limited. Anticipate delays when you call.

For more information about vaccine distribution and priority groups, sign up for the county's email/text vaccine updates at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/mdmontgomery/signup/21366.

A portal, at covidvax.maryland.gov, allows eligible Marylanders to enter their address, ZIP code or location to view vaccination clinics available within a 50-mile radius.

Vaccination Registration Help for Seniors

Older adults who don't have access to the internet can call the state's new COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center at 1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829). The Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of Aging are working together to promote access to vaccines for non-internet-connected seniors through this

telephone-based support line and appointment system.

The Rockville Senior Center is also offering preregistration assistance to residents aged 65 and older, by phone at 240-314-8800.

Checking In

Maryland's Senior Call Check Program is a daily call program to verify seniors' well-being. Participants can register on Maryland's website (aging.maryland.gov/pages/senior-call-check.aspx) and choose a time for their scheduled call.

If you require assistance, call or email the Rockville Senior Center, 240-314-8800 or seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov.

Getting a Ride

Seniors, age 60 and older, in need of a ride to a vaccination appointment, can call:

- Senior Connection: 301-962-0820.
- Connect-A-Ride: 301-738-3252.

The Rockville Senior Center's Call and Ride program is providing taxi coupons to seniors in need of transportation. Seniors living in the city limits of Rockville and in need of transportation can call 240-314-8810 for assistance.

Finding Food

Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food for a list of food resources around the county and other important information. Rockville seniors

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COVID-19 Vaccinations Can Help:

- Keep you from getting sick
- Build protection
- Halt the pandemic
- Protect your loved ones

La Vacuna COVID-19 le Ayudará Para:

- Evitar que se enferme
- Generar protección
- Detener la pandemia
- Proteger tus seres queridos

La Vaccination Contre la COVID-19 Permettra:

- De vous éviter d'être malade
- De renforcer votre protection
- De mettre un terme à la pandémie
- De protéger ceux qui vous sont chers

COVID-19 疫苗有助于:

- 预防生病
- 为您提供保护
- 结束疫情
- 保护您所爱的人

Rockville Mayor and Council Stand with Asian American Pacific Islanders

Statement Offers Condolences and 'Strong Solidarity' with Community and Immigrants

Rockville's Mayor and Council issued a statement, March 22, supporting the Asian American Pacific Islander community and immigrants, rejecting racism and bullying, and offering condolences in the wake of the mass shooting that killed eight people, including six women of Asian descent, on March 16 in Atlanta.

Mayor Bridget Donnell
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MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

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Bénéficiez de ces informations dans votre langue. Allez sur le site RockvilleReports.com et ouvrez le menu « Select Language » (choisir la langue) de Google Translate, situé en haut à droite de la page.

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We're all in this together

2021

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Friday, April 23 at 8 p.m.

Broadcast Premiere on Rockville 11
(In SD Comcast Channel 11/HD MBN Comcast 997)

Live Chat with Us During YouTube Premiere
[YouTube.com/CityofRockville](https://www.youtube.com/CityofRockville)

Virtual performance, citizenship welcome, fun facts, recipes and more!

Rockville Offers Online Tools for Tracking Trash and Remembering Recycling

Rockville offers multiple ways to keep track of your trash and recycling collection day, from on-line tools to printable calendars.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash to learn about Rockville's recycling and trash collection, including what can and can't be recycled, and whether the City of Rockville provides recycling, trash and yard waste collection for your neighborhood.

Enter your address under "Find Your Collection Day." The online tool will tell you whether the City of Rockville serves your address. If it does, you'll be able to add reminders and notifications about collection days and holiday changes to the calendar on your smartphone or personal computer.

Prefer a low-tech or no-tech way to keep track of collection days? Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/301/Holiday-Schedules for a list of holidays when the city's collection schedule changes, and printable calendars showing schedules for each collection day.

For more information, call 240-314-8568, or email recyclingrefuse@rockvillemd.gov.

Senior Center Members Can Use Swim Center Fitness Facilities

The Rockville Senior Center may be temporarily closed under state orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that doesn't mean fitness-minded members of the senior center's fitness room have to go without working out.

During this interim, senior center fitness members are invited to use the fitness room at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.

To do so, contact the senior center at 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov before making your first reservation. More information will be sent once membership is confirmed.

Citywide Survey on Social Justice

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the police-involved killing of George Floyd, in Minneapolis.

The city is seeking to better understand and improve its approach to social justice, inclusion and diversity.

Measures initiated by the Mayor and Council include forming a new Community Policing Advisory Board; declaring Juneteenth a city holiday; advocating to the Maryland General Assembly for the replacement of the state song as, what the Mayor and Council called, an "antithesis of our shared values of diversity, inclusion, equity, and unity;" and conducting an internal survey to better understand how racial equity and inclusion is approached within city government.

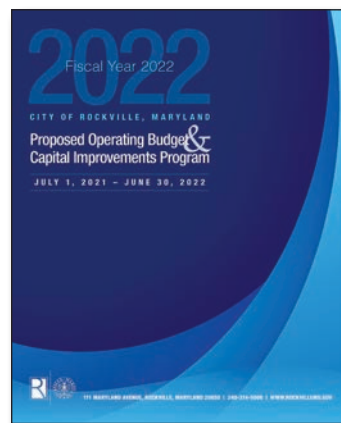
For more information on the survey, and the Mayor and Council's priorities related to social justice, racism and bias, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights.

Public Hearing and Survey Provide Final Opportunities for Budget Input

Rockville's Mayor and Council begin wrapping up budget deliberations this month with their final scheduled public hearing and work session before the scheduled adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption on Monday, May 3.

The proposed operating budget of \$139.7 million is a decrease of less than 1% from the FY 2021 adopted budget and addresses financial pressures on the



Rockville community due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Find video of the city manager's proposed budget presentation with

the Feb. 22 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

For information about how to testify at the hearing, find the agenda, posted the week before the hearing, at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget to review the proposed budget and offer ideas using the budget survey, available in English and Spanish, before the public comment period closes at 5 p.m. Friday, April 16. ✚

FY 2022 Budget Calendar

- **Monday, April 12:** Public hearing.
- **Friday, April 16:** Close of budget public record.
- **Monday, April 19:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 3:** Adoption of FY22 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Thursday, July 1:** FY 2022 begins.

Be Wary of Scams and Crimes That Target Seniors

Scammers are increasingly targeting older adults. But anyone can become a victim of a scam or crime of opportunity. The Rockville City Police Department offers these tips to protect you from scams and while at home:

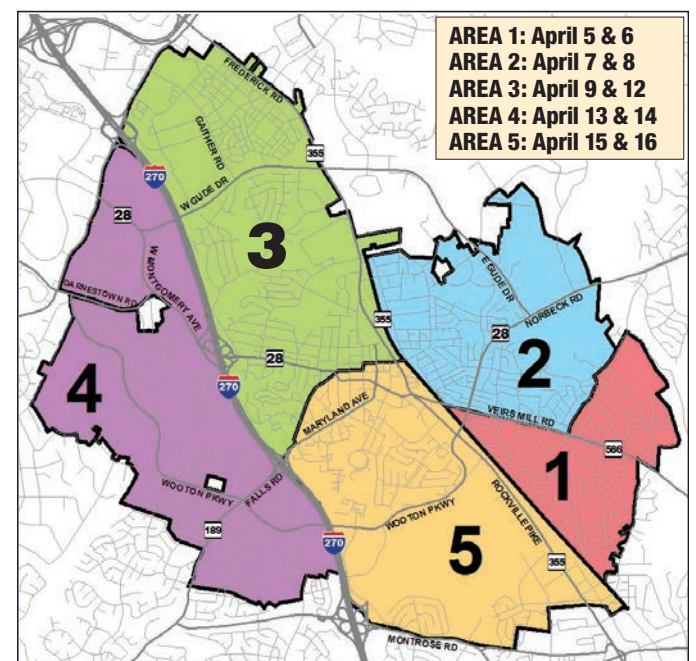
- Never open the front door without checking to see who is there first. Install and use a peephole.
- Lock doors and windows. (Three quarters of the burglaries involving older people involve unlocked doors and windows. Fewer than half of these robberies are reported.) Keep garage doors locked.
- Install deadbolt locks on all doors.
- Use neighborhood watch to keep an eye on your neighborhood. A concerned neighbor is often the best protection against crime because suspicious people and activities are noticed and reported to police promptly.
- Notify neighbors when going away on a trip. Cancel deliveries such as newspapers and arrange for someone to mow the lawn if needed. Arrange for mail to be held by the post office or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.
- Keep your home well-lit at night, inside and out. Keep curtains closed. Leave lights on when going out. Use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period. RCPD officers are available to inspect homes and suggest

safety improvements. Call 240-314-8900 to schedule a time.

- Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Deal only with reputable businesses.
- Don't be afraid to ask for proper identification from delivery people. If they are legitimate, they won't mind.
- If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call yourself.
- Never let a stranger into your home. Do not leave notes on your door when you are gone, and do not hide your keys under a doormat or in other conspicuous places.
- Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or won't be home at a certain time.
- If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, do not go inside. Leave quietly and call 911.
- Don't hesitate to report crime or suspicious activity. Call the RCPD non-emergency line at 240-314-8900. In an emergency, call 911.

Find more crime and safety tips with the Rockville City Police Department's weekly crime reports at www.rockvillemd.gov/271/Weekly-Crime-Reports.

For more information about common scams, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/seniors/fraud-and-scams.html. ✚



See interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection.

Spring Rake: Leaf Collection in April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 5-16 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection allows residents to input their address and learn when their leaves will be collected. Unlike fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves must be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to

avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

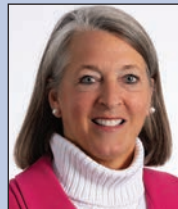
After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills. ✚



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @rockville411, @rockville11, @RockvilleCityPD and @alertrackville and @RockvilleRec. **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** City of Rockville Facebook pages include City of Rockville; Rockville City Police Department; Fitzgerald Theatre of Rockville, Maryland; Croydon Creek Nature Center; City of Rockville Sports Leagues and City of Rockville Farmers Market. **READ MORE ONLINE** at RockvilleReports.com.

Mayor & Council

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VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Meetings will be held Mondays, at 7 p.m. April 5 and 26, and 6 p.m. on April 12, with a work session at 7 p.m. April 19. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The April 12 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember David Myles from 5:15-5:45 p.m. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. April 12 at www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227.

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Rockville Metro Station Study Begins

The City of Rockville has begun work on a study of the Rockville Metro Station in coordination with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Montgomery County.

The study will include communitywide input and is expected to conclude in October. The process will result in recommendations for possible development and site improvements on WMATA-owned property at the station.

While a critical part of the city's transportation network, the station, which opened in 1984, is showing signs of age. The study's goals are to improve the station's aging infrastructure to better connect with Rockville's downtown and explore potential development opportunities at the site, as well as implement ways to increase bus and train ridership.

Community visioning workshops will be held this month, offering a public opportunity to help establish guiding principles and priorities for the project. The time and date of the workshops are to be determined and will be posted on the project webpage, once available.

The results of those workshops will be presented Monday, May 10 to the Mayor and Council. A public meeting later in the process will allow the public to give feedback on the draft concept plans that will be developed.

For more information on the study, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2356/Rockville-Station-Study, or contact principal planner Clark Larson at clarson@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8225. ❖



LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Mayor and Council to Hold Public Hearing on Annexation

The Mayor and Council will hold a virtual public hearing, Monday, May 17, on a proposal to annex an almost 10.3-acre plot of land at 16200 Frederick Road.

The annexation was initiated through a petition to the city by Victor, Inc., the property's owner, with a request to zone the area as mixed-use corridor district.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. The Planning Commission held a Feb. 10 public hearing on the proposal and approved the annexation plan at their March 10 meeting. See more details on both the hearing and meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Annexation is the formal

process of incorporating an area outside of the city's jurisdiction into its municipal boundaries. To be eligible, the property must be within the city's maximum expansion limits, as identified in the Municipal Growth Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and adjacent to the city limits.

To testify at the Mayor and Council's May 17 public hearing, call 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the hearing or by submitting testimony in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or Mayor and Council, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. ❖

Asian American Pacific Islanders

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Newton began the March 22 Mayor and Council meeting with the following statement:

"Having just recited the Pledge [of Allegiance], I would like to make a brief statement on behalf of the Mayor and Council regarding the horrific tragedy last week in Atlanta – another attack on our AAPI community, our friends, our family.

"The Rockville Mayor and Council stand in strong solidarity with all in the AAPI community, residents of Rockville, Montgomery County, the state of Maryland, anywhere and everywhere.

"Racism of any kind, bullying of any kind, will not be tolerated in our city, nor anywhere should it be.

"We are a country of immigrants, built by immigrants. Only by working together and supporting each other, will the great country, the United States of America, succeed.

"You are welcome.

And you matter. To me. To each member of this council. To our staff and to our community.

"It's heartbreaking to have to say this: Our condolences, our prayers for comfort and peace, go out to all who are suffering, who are scared.

"United we stand."

Rockville City Police Department Chief Victor V. Brito also released a statement of unity with the AAPI community. "As your community's law enforcement partners, we are committed to protecting you and doing everything we can to prevent these abhorrent criminal acts," the statement said in part. Find the full statement on the Rockville City Police Department's Facebook page.

For video of the Mayor and Council statement, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the television icon next to the March 22 Mayor and Council meeting listing. ❖

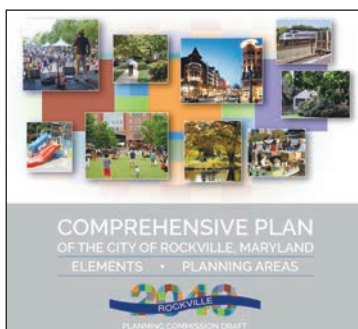
Comprehensive Master Plan

continued from pg. 1...

ments on the draft plan and will review all comments received to make any necessary changes to the document. The public comment period will run into April to allow the community to give further input on the document, in writing.

Rockville's comprehensive plan sets a vision and goals for the future of the city, with practical policies and actions to achieve those goals.

The comprehensive plan is organized in two sections. The first



section contains 10 broad, city-wide "Elements," including topics such as land use, transportation, recreation and parks, environment, economic development, housing and municipal growth.

The second section focuses on issues and opportunities specific to 17 neighborhood-scale planning areas.

The Planning Commission's draft comprehensive plan is based on feedback gathered throughout the Rockville 2040 process, which included numerous listening sessions, citywide forums, open houses and other meetings, as well as analysis and discussion by the Planning Commission and city staff.

If adopted by the Mayor and Council, as anticipated later this

continued on pg. 7...

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **April 7 and 21 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

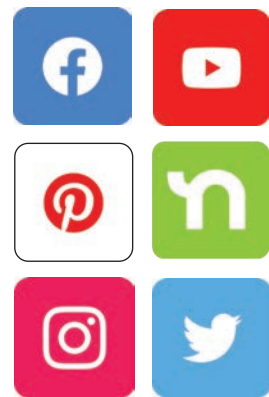
Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Human Rights Commission (4)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (2)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1)
- Retirement Board (1)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

Connect with us on Social Media.



► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Zelda by Zoomlight Offers Movie Buffs a Fitzgerald-Themed Watch Party

Movie Buff? F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Fan?

The Zelda by Zoomlight Movie Club is a virtual watch party on Zoom that will present films Zelda Fitzgerald and her author husband, F. Scott would have enjoyed.

Participants 16 and older can join the Zoom party every other Tuesday, from April 6-May 18, from 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$4 for residents, \$5 for nonresidents.

Movies will include: "Oliver Twist" (April 6); "Last Time I Saw" (April 20); "From Russia With Love" (May 4); and "A Farewell to Arms" (May 18).

Jump into your PJs for a special virtual pajama party showing of "The Pajama Game," starring Doris Day, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 29.

For more info and to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration, and search "Zoomlight."

Practice good petiquette in our parks!



A New Way to Pay Water Utility Bills is Here

Visit our new payment portal!

Check your mailbox for:

- ✓ New account information.
- ✓ How to register.

Then:

- View and pay your utility bill online, anytime, with a credit/debit card or e-check.
- Receive bills and receipts via email with a paperless option.
- Get email and optional text message reminders.
- Choose to pay online or by mail, phone or text message.
- Create your own payment schedule with FlexPay:
 - Use Auto Pay to avoid late or missed payments, or
 - One-Time Pay to quickly view and pay without registering.

It's safe, simple and secure.

www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling

This Way to Earth Day

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22, and Rockville is celebrating with events all spring long, including the following free or low-cost activities that promote getting outside and helping nature.

All in-person events require participants to wear a face covering and practice social distancing of at least 6 feet. Activities marked SSL are eligible for Student Service Learning hours. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration using the course numbers.

Saturday, April 3: Critter Tales at Croydon Creek, 10 a.m. on Facebook Live.

Join Croydon Creek on Facebook Live for a story and an introduction to something special in nature. Watch at facebook.com/croydoncreek.

Saturday, April 10: 33rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, 9 a.m.-noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. SSL

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Spaces are limited. Cleanups at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center and Maryvale Park are full. For more information and to register, use course #19000 and select "Trail Clean Up."

Sunday, April 11: Exploring Vernal Pools,



2-4 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Discover what makes a vernal pool and who lives in one. Hike off the beaten path to see the best vernal pools in the Hayes Forest Preserve. Wear hiking shoes and a mask and dress for the weather for this outdoor program. Ages 8-12. Course #18452. \$8 R/\$10 NR.

Wednesdays, April 14-May 26: Outdoor Nature Club, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Spend an hour outdoors investigating and learning about nature while roaming the forest preserve with two experienced naturalists. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. Meets every other week for four sessions. Ages 6-8. Course #18453. Cost \$40 R/\$50 NR for four sessions.

Saturdays, April 17 and 24: Little Explorers, 10-11 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Go on hiking adventures with naturalists, play games and discover the fun that can

be had outdoors. Spaces are limited. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 2-5. Course #18458. \$8 R/\$10 NR.

Saturday, April 24: Drug Take-Back, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rockville City Police Station parking lot, 2 W. Montgomery Ave.

See the article on this page.

Sunday, April 25: City Nature Challenge: iNaturalist Training, 2-3 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

See "Bio Blitz!," at the bottom of this page.

Looking for more to do both outside and virtually? Find it at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Ongoing: CleanUp Rockville (Virtual Volunteer Opportunity). SSL

Volunteer to complete a self-guided litter cleanup to help keep Rockville trash free. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration with course #18457. Instructions will be provided during checkout with details on how to complete SSL hours. Participants can choose one of Rockville's 67 parks or stream valleys to clean and must provide their own equipment. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. All children and adults participating must

register. Montgomery County health guidelines must be followed.

Ongoing: Take the Plogging Pledge.

Plogging is picking up litter while you walk, jog or run. Pledge to plog in Rockville and receive a free plogging bag, while supplies last. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment to take the pledge.

Ongoing: Adopt a Stream. SSL

Individuals, families, businesses and community groups can adopt a stream in Rockville and organize cleanups to help our waterways stay free of litter and other contaminants. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream to apply to adopt a stream.

Solar and EV Charger Co-op Coming Soon.

If you are interested in rooftop solar, or are looking to install an electric vehicle charger, then this is the opportunity for you. For updates, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes or sign up to receive the city's "Environment and Sustainability News" quarterly email newsletter, featuring environmental news and events during Earth Month and throughout the year. To subscribe, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability." ✚

Take-Back Day Offers a Way to Get Rid of Unwanted Medication

Rockville Police Offer Drive-Up and Drop-Off Collection

The Rockville City Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office offer a safe, free and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs during National Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 24.

In cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, city police and county sheriffs will accept leftover — including expired — prescription drugs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Rockville City Police Station parking lot at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. To make it quick and convenient, officers will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off access, so there is no need to get out

of your vehicle.

Illicit drugs, liquids, needles, sharps or syringes cannot be accepted, only pills or patches. All returned medications will be destroyed by the DEA.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a convenient and responsible means of disposal, keeping prescription drugs from potentially polluting our drinking water, while educating the public about the potential for abuse or theft of these medications.

Learn more about National Drug Take-Back Day at www.dea.gov or call Cpl. Derrick Tibbs at 240-314-8922. ✚

Rockville Farmers Market

SATURDAYS
May 15-Nov. 20 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street.
 WIC and EBT/SNAP accepted.

GETTING THERE: Metro: Red Line • Ride On - Bus 47 and 56
 Free parking available.

www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers • 240-314-8620

IT'S, IT'S A BIO BLITZ! ... The City Nature Challenge, April 30-May 3, is a friendly worldwide competition among metropolitan areas to spot and identify wildlife. Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to participate in this bio blitz at a free training for ages 12 and up from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, April 25, at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Download the app before April 25. Registration is required using course #18455 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Learn more at citynaturechallengedc.org and in late April on Croydon Creek Nature Center's Facebook page.

Return to Fun with Summer Camps 2021

Rockville's 2021 summer camps mark a return to fun — and safety is very much a priority. Registration will open Tuesday, April 6.

Parks Adventures camp, for kids age 5-11, will be open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. until early August at six locations throughout Rockville.

Park Adventures Plus Camp, for ages 6-12, runs from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at four Rockville locations until August.

Both Park Adventures and Park Adventures Plus will feature games, crafts and water activities outdoors, whenever possible.

Socialize with peers, express creativity, learn new skills, play recreational games and stay active throughout the summer. Camps include in-person and virtual options.

And parents, whether you're looking for child care options, half-days in the park or specialty activities such as drama, STEAM, gymnastics, or in-service learning camps for teens, we have programs



for everyone.

Full-day or half-day, one- or two-week options are available, depending on the program.

Rockville's top-notch staff are chosen for their experience, enthusiasm and passion for working with children.

All camps have been modified to meet federal, state and local COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, with small groups and low staff-to-camper ratios. Face coverings, hand washing, equipment sanitization and physical distancing will be implemented.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps for more information, or see the "Summer Camps 2021" guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. ❖

Rockville Cancels Music Fest, Explores Options for Memorial Day

Suds and Soles is On as the City Plans Other Summer Community Events

The Hometown Holidays Music Fest and Rockville's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade have been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, which is again altering the schedule for popular Rockville summer events.

The city is exploring options for recognizing Memorial Day, as well as alternative community events for the summer. Montgomery County's latest health orders prohibit outdoor gatherings of more than 50 people and the city will not be holding large in-person events at this time. Check "Rockville Reports" and RockvilleReports.com for more details in the weeks ahead.

The annual Suds and Soles 5K Race is back. The race, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, has



moved from Rockville Town Center to RedGate Park, 14500 Avery Road. Save the date and visit the race website at mcrrcsudsandsoles.org for updates and details as they become available.

The city's Special Events staff discussed community events during the pandemic with the Mayor and Council on March 15. Find a staff report and video of the discussion with the March 15 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

Heart Health, Hips and Knees, and Less Stress: What's Virtual This Month at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay well with online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in April. For details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

Register with the course number online at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

Sessions are free, unless otherwise noted.

Stress Reduction/ Meditation

Learn the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion.

Course #17754, Monday, April 5, 1-2 p.m. (free); course #17752, Mondays, 1-2 p.m. April 12- June 14, \$30 members/\$40 nonmembers.

Stress-Away!

Explore what stress levels are normal, what levels are unhealthy and how to eliminate stress from daily life. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Course #17821, Tuesday, April 6, 1-2 p.m.

Total Hip and Knee Replacement

Dr. Carlos A. Martinez, owner of CAM Physical Therapy and Wellness Services, LLC, will discuss what to expect before and after surgery, from rehabilitation to your return to function, hip and knee anatomy, how a physical therapist can help, and strategies to im-

prove daily living.

Course #17923, Tuesday, April 13, 1-2 p.m.

Common Neuromuscular and Musculoskeletal Pain Syndromes: Part 2

Dr. Mehrdad Michael Massumi, of Massumi Associates for Pain and Rehabilitation, will discuss basic anatomy and pathology of common neuromuscular and musculoskeletal pain, and treatments specifically for the torso, abdomen and lower extremities.

Course #17753, Wednesday, April 14, 1-2:30 p.m.

Essential Oils Can Help Manage Stress and Anxiety

Learn how the ancient art of aromatherapy and essential oils can help us stay centered and calm, and a few simple self-care techniques for which essential oil is optional. Presented by Adrienne Hausman of Adrienne's Aromas.

Course #17779, Tuesday, April 20, 1-2 p.m.

Keeping with the Beat

Cardiologist, Dr. Edward Healy, will review the signs and non-surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation, an irregular heartbeat or arrhythmia that can lead to blood clots, stroke or heart failure.

Course #17751, Thursday, April 22, 1-2 p.m.

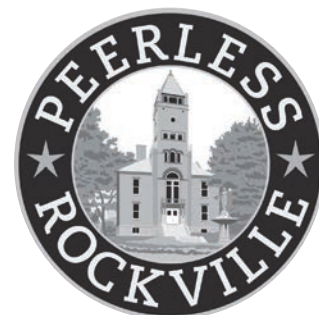
For more information about the Rockville Senior Center, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter. ❖

Peerless Rockville Presents: A Theater Company, Public Art and a Bloodthirsty Mob

Peerless Rockville presentations in April offer closer looks at a Rockville theater company, the city's public art and a 19th-century newspaper editor from Rockville whose antiwar writings made him the target of mob violence.

Register for the following free virtual events at www.peerlessrockville.org/events-and-programs.

Rockville Little Theatre: Now, That's Entertainment; 7-8 p.m.



Thursday, April 8

Join Peerless Rockville and the Glenview Mansion for a presentation by Rockville Little Theatre, one of the F. Scott

continued on pg. 7...

Glenview Mansion Launches Podcast Series

Spring is sprouting podcasts at the historic Glenview Mansion, with thrilling mysteries and time-and-space adventures only a podcast network away.

"Mysteries From Glenview Mansion," which launches Tuesday, April 6, breathes new life into the radio plays of yesteryear, bringing back to the airwaves classic stories. A new episode debuts on the first Tuesday of the month through June.

In "Adventures from Glenview Mansion," professor Havren Claw is lost in time and space. Each episode features a guest host who helps investigate a new world. Will he make it home? You'll have to tune in to find out!

The series debuts Wednesday, April 14, with Claw's first steps into the world of Dungeons and Dragons. New episodes will launch every two weeks through Wednesday, May 26.

Episodes are available for free on most podcast networks, including Spotify and iTunes.

For more info, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/life and see page 46 in spring's recreation guide, "Life in Rockville."

Upper Watts Branch Project Recognized as a BUBBA Runner-Up

The city's Upper Watts Branch Park Forest Preserve Environmental Restoration Project was recently recognized with second place in the Chesapeake Stormwater Network's Best Urban BMP in the Bay Awards.

Better known as the BUBBAs, the program bestows the prestigious regional awards every other year on stormwater projects using BMPs, or best management practices.

The city's project was recognized in the Best Stream Restoration category for its comprehensive approach to stream restoration design and its excellent community outreach and engagement.

The award application was submitted by Hazen and Sawyer, the city's consultant design partner. The project team consisted of Hazen and Sawyer, Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc., Environmental Quality Resources, LLC, and a city staff team led by project manager John Hollida.

The restoration project, in the park between West Gude Drive and Nelson Street, targeted erosion in Watts Branch that was degrading the quality of the stream's water, which ultimately flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The project included stream restoration, stormwater management, wetland enhancement, reforestation and protection of utilities within the park.

For more info, visit chesapeakestormwater.net/the-bubbba/2021-bubbba/2021-best-stream-restoration and select the link in the project's title for project photos and documents.

Rockville City Academy Offers a Fresh Perspective on Rockville's Government

The Rockville City Academy returns in May, offering community members an opportunity to better understand how the City of Rockville operates, with a closer look at city departments and services.

This year's academy will be virtual, with four sessions connecting participants with some of the city staff who help keep Rockville running. Sessions will be held 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 18-27, and will allow participation from the comfort and safety of home.

Registration will be open Thursday, April 1-Monday, May 10 at www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older. Student Service Learning hours are available. Topics will include:

- Understanding the City of Rockville.
- Housing and community development.
- Rockville development and permitting.
- Community-friendly policing.

For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at hcordero@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8344.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? ... April is not only for April Fools, it's the month for awareness of sexual assault, child abuse, internships, distracted driving, Parkinson's disease and autism. It's also a month to appreciate volunteers, couples, jazz, poetry, pecans and Earth (see page 4).



A design rendering of an office building at Twinbrook Quarter.

Twinbrook Quarter's Phase 1 Progresses

Additional grocery and living options are coming to the Twinbrook area.

Since receiving Planning Commission approval for Phase I of Twinbrook Quarter, design and permitting are progressing. Phase I plans include a Wegman's supermarket and additional retail space on the ground level.

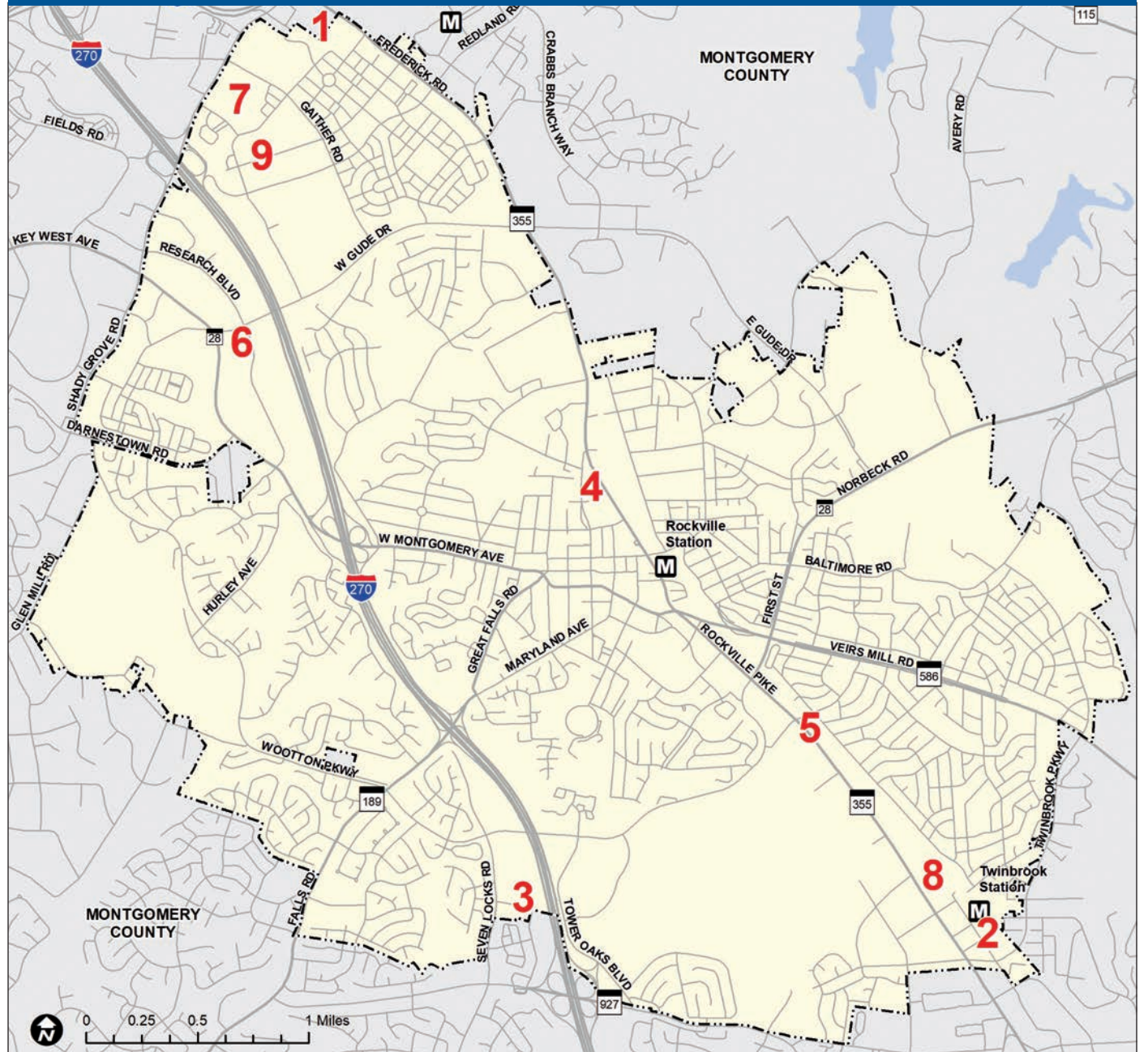
The rest of the 11-story building will be residential, up to 460 units, and up to 237,000 square feet of office space. As part of the development, Chapman Avenue will be extended and a new street constructed.

The proposed project extends 18 acres from the northeast corner of Rockville Pike and Halpine Road, from 1500 to 1616 Rockville Pike. Applicants, Saul Holdings LP, intend to create a transit-oriented, mixed-use district of residential, retail and office space that offers a landscaped pedestrian promenade along Rockville Pike, new internal street connectors and a central green, among other site amenities.

Twinbrook Quarter would replace single-story retail, office and restaurant uses typical of Rockville's suburban-style commercial development along Rockville Pike. The project would continue the trend of infill development on properties to the south and east around the Twinbrook Metro Station.

Future phases include additional retail and residential, as well as a central green area.

Major Development Review Applications



Projects in the Pipeline

View the latest map at www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch

Recent Pre-Application Submittals

The following projects are under pre-application review:

- 16200 Frederick Road (King Buick):** Pre-application for a residential development consisting of 365 dwelling units, including 247 townhouses and 118 two-over-two multifamily units. Case PAM2020-00129.
- 1818 Chapman Ave.:** Pre-application for a mixed-use development consisting of 440 multifamily units and approximately 5,870 square feet of ground floor retail. Case PAM2021-00130.

Applications Under Review

The following applications are in the development review process:

- 11511 Fortune Terrace (Potomac Woods):** Level 2 site plan for a mixed-use development consisting of townhomes and multifamily residential, with ground-floor retail and senior housing with an existing fitness center. Case STP2020-00399.
- 460 Hungerford Drive:** Level 2 site plan for a proposed Chase Bank with drive-thru. Case STP2021-00414.
- 900 Rockville Pike:** Project plan amendment for a proposed 6,000-square-foot retail center with approximately 900 square feet of office use. Case PJT2018-00010.

- 1800 Research Blvd.:** Project plan amendment to the planned development for Falls Grove to allow development of a five-story, 300-unit multifamily residential building, where office was previously approved. Case PJT2020-00012.

Recently Approved Applications

The following applications were recently approved and are currently, or soon to be, under construction:

- 15825 Shady Grove Road (Shady Grove Neighborhood Center):** Level 2 site plan for phase 1 implementation of PJT2017-00007 to develop 136 townhouse units. Case STP2020-00393.
- Twinbrook Quarter:** Level 2 site plan for phase 1 implementation of PJT2018-00011, consisting of up to 100,000 square feet of retail uses, 237,000 square feet of office and up to 460 multifamily dwelling units. Case STP2020-00401.
- 801 King Farm:** Level 2 site plan application for a proposed 64-unit townhouse development in the F7 and F8 sections of Irvington Centre/King Farm. Case STP2019-00367.

How do *you* imagine RedGate Park's future?

Rockville's Mayor and Council are unanimous. RedGate's 131-acres will remain a park.

Help envision — and design — RedGate's future.

Take our survey, engage with us and stay informed at EngageRockville.com.

TAKE THE SURVEY



RESPONDE LA ENCUESTA

参加调查



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): We celebrated Women's History Month through March. Check back in on some of the city's historic women. Twinbrook neighborhood organizations came together for a mask giveaway. And help stop the spread of COVID-19 — take the shot.

April CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- f** Facebook Live Event
- E** Earth Month Event



1-9



11



14,28



20

1-9 SIDEWALK CHALK SENSORY TRAIL For two weeks at two parks, to mark Autism Awareness Month, the Sidewalk Hop Sensory Trails use the different elements to promote physical and mental health and self-awareness. Visitors of all ages can complete the obstacle courses by exercising creatively, relieving stress and having fun as they improve their concentration, memory, motivation, body awareness, coordination and motor planning skills. Free. Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive, and Dogwood Park, 800 Monroe St.

1,15 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: WOMEN LIVING ALONE **V** A support group where members support each other by listening, expressing concern and offering tips, suggestions and advice. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

2,9,16,23,30 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: MANAGING STRESS DURING THE PANDEMIC **V** A support group to help people cope with isolation, anxiety, depression and loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants learn coping skills from the facilitator and from each other. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

3 CRITTER TALES AT CROYDON CREEK **V** **f** **E** Join us at www.facebook.com/croydoncreek for a story and meet one of Croydon Creek's critters. 10-10:15 a.m. **CC**

5 STRESS REDUCTION/MEDITATION **V** See page 5 for more details. **SR**

5,12,19,26 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING **V** Via Webex. See www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

6 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS See article on page 5 and visit www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

6 STRESS-AWAY **V** See page 5 for more details. **SR**

6,20 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM-EMPATHY **V** Explore empathy from the points of view of various authors and share experiences with empathy, or the lack of it. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

6,13,20,27 TIME MACHINE TUNES **V** Experience a blast from the past with high school musicians singing and playing instruments to popular tunes from past decades. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 3:30-4 p.m. **SR**

8,22 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: MEN LIVING ALONE **V** An opportunity for men to socialize and support each other, sharing the challenges and joys of living by yourself. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8 GLENVIEW MANSION & PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES: THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT **V** Presented by Rockville Little Theatre. Free. See article on page 5. **GM**

10 TRASH-FREE POTOMAC CLEANUP **E** Help keep Rockville streams free of trash in this regionwide event. Student Service Learning hours are available. Space is limited. Registration required for each volunteer. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, or to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream. 9 a.m.-noon **CC**

11 EXPLORING VERNAL POOLS **E** Discover what makes a vernal pool and who lives in one. Hike off the beaten path to see the best vernal pools in the Hayes Forest Preserve. Wear hiking shoes and a mask and dress for the weather for this outdoor program. Ages 8-12. Course #18452. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 2-4 p.m. **CC**

13 TOTAL HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENT **V** See page 5 for more details. **SR**

13,27 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: BRAIN GAMES **V** With regular brain exercise, we can improve our long-term memory, working memory, executive functioning attention to detail and processing speed. Join the fun and work your brain as you compete with peers in games and puzzles. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

14 COMMON NEUROMUSCULAR AND MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN SYNDROMES: PART 2 **V** See page 5 for more details. **SR**

14,28 OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB: ACORNS **E** Spend an hour outdoors investigating and learning about nature while roaming the forest preserve with two experienced naturalists. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. Meets every other week for four sessions. Ages 6-8. Course #18453. Cost \$40 R/\$50 NR for four sessions. 3:30-4:30 p.m. **CC**

17,24 LITTLE EXPLORERS **E** Go on hiking adventures with naturalists, play games and discover the fun that can be had outdoors. Spaces are limited. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Course #18458. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

19-23 SENSORY-FRIENDLY REC-IT KIT Pick Up Kits **V** Celebrate Autism Awareness Month with this Rec-It Kit featuring sensory-friendly items to engage kids in games, fitness and craft activities. Kits will be available for pick up the week of April 19. An email with pickup details will be sent the week of April 12. Course #18717. \$10.

20 ESSENTIAL OILS CAN HELP MANAGE STRESS AND ANXIETY **V** See page 5 for more details. **SR**

22 KEEPING WITH THE BEAT **V** See page 5 for more details. **SR**

23 2021 INTERNATIONAL NIGHT: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER **V** A virtual performance, citizenship welcome, fun facts, recipes and more. Premiering on Rockville 11 (SD on county cable channel 11/HD on Comcast channel 997). Live chat during the premiere at youtube.com/cityofrockville. 8-9 p.m.

25 iNATURALIST TRAINING **E** Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to identify and map local species and improve your natural history knowledge. Use the app in the City Nature Challenge, April 30-May 3. See below for details. Download the app before April 25. Registration required. Course #18455. Free. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

29 DEALING WITH AGEISM **V** Learn the effects of ageism on seniors, ways to cope with it and how to work to eliminate it. Join virtually or by phone. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

30 CITY NATURE CHALLENGE KICKS OFF **E** Use the iNaturalist app to participate in this friendly worldwide competition among metro areas to see whose residents can spot and identify the most wildlife. Runs Friday, April 30-Monday, May 3. Learn more at citynaturechallengedc.org.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Peerless Rockville Presents

continued from pg. 5...

Fitzgerald Theatre's resident companies and an instrumental part of the theater coming into being. A vital part of Rockville since 1947, RLT has presented more than 300 plays and provided thousands of community members with creative outlets onstage and backstage.

Mobtown Massacre: Rockville's Alexander Hanson and the 1812 Newspaper War; 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 28

"Mobtown Massacre" author Josh S. Cutler presents an illustrated lecture about Alexander Hanson, a 19th-cen-

tury Federalist newspaper editor from Rockville whose antiwar writings provoked a bloodthirsty mob, a midnight jailbreak and a brutal Baltimore massacre that stunned the nation.

Public Art and the Rockville Cityscape; noon, Thursday, April 29

Take a narrated, photographic tour of public art in Rockville. Historian Teresa Lachin will feature highlights of the city's Art in Public Places program, launched in 1978, which boasts numerous works in Rockville's parks, public spaces, neighborhoods and downtown. The city program enhances Rockville's public spaces with traditional and conventional pieces, as well as abstract, modern and post-modern works. ✚

Comprehensive Master Plan

continued from pg. 3...

year, it will replace the city's previous 2002 comprehensive plan and many of its subsequent amendments.

To testify at the public hearing, call 240-314-8280 or email cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. April 12. Testimony may be submitted in writing to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, or forwarded by email to mayor@rockvillemd.gov or council@rockvillemd.gov.

For more information, and to review the Planning Commission's draft Comprehensive Plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040 or contact principal planner Clark Larson at clarson@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8225. ✚

COVID-19 Updates

continued from pg. 1...

can call the senior center at 240-314-8810, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Senior center meal distributions are scheduled for Wednesdays.

Information about the city's response to the pandemic is available at www.rockvillemd.gov, on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Nextdoor), and on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable).

Visit mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19 updates to sign up for Rockville's email newsletter featuring city, state and county news about COVID-19. For general inquiries about city operations, call 240-314-5000. ✚

Mayor and Council Testify on County's Shady Grove Plan Update

Rockville's Mayor and Council have sent a letter to the Montgomery County Council with their testimony on the Shady Grove Sector Plan Minor Master Plan Amendment.

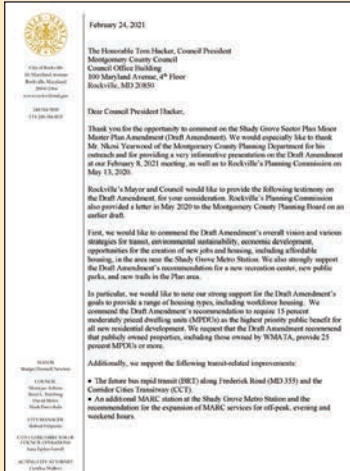
Since the adoption by the county of the Shady Grove Sector Plan in 2006, several substantive changes to the county's land use planning policies and practices require the plan be updated.

The Mayor and Council commended the amendment's "overall vision and various strategies" for areas including transit, economic development and new job creation. They also strongly support the amendment's goals of providing a range of housing types that include affordable housing and a number of transit-related improvements.

However, the Mayor and Council stated their concerns about "the potential negative impacts on Rockville (and the rest of the surrounding area) with respect to traffic, schools, the environment and other infrastructure and facilities," and requested a reconsideration of some plan components.

More information on the 2006 Shady Grove Sector Plan and the amendment process is available at montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/midcounty/shady-grove/shady-grove-minor-master-plan-amendment.

Read the letter in full at at.RockvilleReports.com. Search for "Shady Grove letter."



Mayor and Council to Hear Report on Deer Culling Pilot Program

The Mayor and Council will receive a report at their Monday, April 26 meeting on a recent managed deer culling pilot program, held in the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve.

All told, 21 deer in total were culled without incident by experienced bow hunters during weeklong periods in November, December and January. The deer were donated to programs to help feed the homeless.

A pilot, the archery-only hunt was intended to bring the white-tailed deer population to a more sustainable level in concert with other measures, such as data collection, education and participation in a countywide deer-management working group. As the number of deer have increased regionally, so has the risk of vehicle accidents, damage to landscapes and forest ecosystems, and Lyme disease.

Additional recommendations to control the burgeoning deer population will be discussed at the Mayor and Council meeting, potentially including ending or continuing the program, or expanding it.

For more details nearer the time and to see the meeting agenda, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!
www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Survey Results Help Rockville Plot Plan for Climate Action

Rockville's Climate Action Plan should focus on reducing greenhouse gas, addressing racial equity and protecting future generations, respondents to a recent city survey said.

The city received 525 responses to the Climate Action Plan survey conducted in late 2020. Highlights included:

- A strong majority — 89% — rated climate change as very important or extremely important to them. Less than 3% rated climate change as not important at all.
- Respondents said the plan should focus on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas, address racial equity, protect future generations and showcase Rockville leading by example, and to support city priorities such as safety, job creation and improving environmental quality.
- The cost of city efforts to respond to climate change was rated low as a decision-making factor for many respondents, but some commented that they would not want additional costs to be borne by residents.

- A majority were enthusiastic about city actions that have climate change co-benefits such as expanding access to bike routes, protecting natural areas and trees, smart growth, reducing waste, and expanding renewable energy. Respondents also indicated they were eager to do their part to help the environment.

The city is grateful for the ideas, input and inspiration offered by survey respondents. Anyone with questions or ideas about Rockville's actions to address climate change is invited to join staff from the city's Environmental Management Division for virtual office hours from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 7. To register, and to learn more about the plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

Staff is continuing to analyze the survey input to incorporate it in the draft Rockville Climate Action Plan. The plan, a Mayor and Council priority, is expected to be ready for review in the coming months. ✚

Meet a Rockville Employee: Cecil "C.J." Rucker

Cecil "C.J." Rucker joined the City of Rockville in December. He works for the City of Rockville's Housing and Community Services Division. We asked him a few questions about his job to introduce him to the Rockville community.



Cecil "C.J." Rucker,
Senior Program
Coordinator

mentoring and academic support programs established in three elementary schools in Rockville city limits. We have more than 20 dedicated mentors who do a fantastic job of helping

at-risk youth bridge gaps academically and socio-emotionally.

What else should readers know about you?

I live with my wife, Jade, and two sons: Cameron, who attends (and plays basketball) at St. Mary's College of Maryland; and Jaron, who is 12 and also a terrific athlete. I played basketball for four years at the University of Notre Dame, before playing professional basketball in five countries in western Europe.

To learn more about the Department of Housing and Community Development, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2181. ✚


What did you do before joining the city?

I was part of a support team for Montgomery County Public Schools that specialized in special programs and recreational therapy. I also managed programs for Team Up for Success, a 501(c)(3) that focused on bringing equitable programs to underserved youth.

What does your position entail and is there anything specific you'd like to tell us about it?

I manage programs in the youth development sector for the City of Rockville's Housing and Community Services Division. We have

What can people do to get involved with Vision Zero?





- ▶ The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and the Traffic and Transportation Commission meet regularly to discuss transportation safety issues and welcome your participation.
- ▶ Read "Rockville Reports," watch Rockville 11 and follow the city on social media for opportunities to offer input on the Vision Zero Action Plan and the city's pedestrian master plan.
- ▶ If you see something that could immediately improve safety, let us know. Visit rockvillemd.gov to "Report a concern."
- ▶ Become an ambassador for safety by spreading the word about what Vision Zero is and how it can benefit the community.
- ▶ Let the city know of groups that the city should identify for outreach about Vision Zero and its mission.

VISION ZERO

ROCKVILLE

WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, fair mobility for all.

HOW CAN YOU COMMIT TO VISION ZERO? Vision Zero is the city's strategy to eliminate traffic and pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and fair mobility for all. Help us better understand your transportation, pedestrian and bicycle safety experience in Rockville by completing a survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero. Older residents who would like assistance completing the survey can call the Rockville Senior Center at 240-314-8816.



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Interim Deputy City Manager: Tim Chesnutt
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

Web and Digital Manager: Tatum B. Walker
Graphics and Printing: Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler
Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for "Rockville Reports"? Email pio@rockvillemd.gov.



LOOKING FOR FUNDS TO HELP WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY? Low- to moderate-income homeowners in Rockville could be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grants for energy-efficient light bulbs and showerheads, attic insulation, Energy Star appliances, HVAC replacement, and other improvements. For more information, city residents may contact Niambi Powell at npowell@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8319.